

Farm Bill 2002

National Natural Resources Conservation Foundation

Overview

The National Natural Resources Conservation Foundation (NNRCF) promotes innovative solutions to natural resource problems and conducts research and educational activities to support conservation on private land. The NNRCF is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation established by Congress in 1996 to work closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The NNRCF is reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill).

Benefits

The NNRCF provides the means to research and promote innovations for the conservation of natural resources on private land to prevent excessive soil erosion; enhance soil and water quality; and protect wetlands, wildlife habitat, and strategically important farmland subject to urban conversion and fragmentation. The Foundation builds partnerships among agencies and agricultural, public, and private constituencies interested in promoting voluntary conservation on private lands. With private funding, the Foundation can make grants to State and local agencies and nonprofit organizations and engage innovators of natural resource conservation concepts and technologies to find conservation solutions to natural resource challenges.

Foundation Funding

The Foundation accepts gifts from individuals, corporations, businesses, and nonprofit organizations and agencies. Gifts to the NNRCF are tax deductible.

How the NNRCF works

The Foundation is a self-sustaining nonprofit organization able to accept private donations from individuals, corporations, businesses, and other nonprofit organizations and agencies. The Foundation has the authority to enter into cooperative agreements and contracts with Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies, and public and private organizations and to grant monies for conservation activities.

The Foundation works with private and public universities and corporations to encourage research for the development of innovative solutions to natural resource concerns. Innovations may target design, installation, or techniques that protect, conserve, or restore the natural environment; create new methods for traditional modes of farming; or create multifunctionality on single land-use lands to enhance soil and water quality, protect wetlands and wildlife habitat, and protect strategically important land.

The Foundation facilitates the transfer of technologies between the academic and scientific communities and the private and public sectors by supporting demonstration projects and by working with educators to place conservation activities in curricula. The Foundation and NRCS will work to develop a natural resource conservation demonstration center in Beltsville, Maryland, where individuals and groups can view conservation techniques, participate in conservation projects, and interact with conservation professionals.

The Foundation works with NRCS to identify conservation issues of national significance and provide leadership to solve natural resource problems that may arise. Issues may pertain to resolving conflicts on the urban-rural interface; keeping farms on the edge of urbanization in farming; positioning small and limited resource farmers to compete in the global or local marketplace; and addressing the fragmentation of farmland, wildland, and urban land.

Grant Funding

Since the Foundation is not yet established, except by law, the mechanism for grant funding will be created under the leadership and direction of the Board of Trustees and Executive Director. Announcements for any grant program administered by the Foundation will be published as required by law.

Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for specific grant funding will be created under the leadership and direction of the Board of Trustees and Executive Director.

For More Information

If you need more information about the NNRCF, please contact Doug Lawrence at 202-720-8851 or doug.lawrence@usda.gov. Information also is available on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002/>



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